CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for accessing information on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

a) allowing a first system to submit a query to a second system;

b) processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes information not residing on the second system to process the query; and

c) utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first system comprises a client machine and the second system comprises a server machine.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the information comprises data and metadata.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the metadata comprises information about objects.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the objects comprise tables, triggers and indexes.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein a first protocol is utilized by the client machine to submit the query and the query includes data and metadata along with a request to perform an operation on the data and metadata.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein a first protocol is utilized by the client machine to submit the query and the query includes a pointer to the data and metadata along with a request to perform an operation on the data and metadata.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the server machine implements a second protocol to process the query.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the processing of the query comprises the server machine performing the requested operation on the data and metadata.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

11. The method of claim 7 wherein the server machine implements a second protocol to process the query.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the processing of the query comprises the server machine performing the requested operation on the data and metadata.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

14. A network database management system for accessing information on a network, the system comprising:

means for allowing a first system to submit a query to a second system;

means for processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes information not residing on the second system to process the query; and

means for utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the first system comprises a client machine and the second system comprises a server machine.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the information comprises data and metadata.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the metadata comprises information about objects.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the objects comprise tables, triggers and indexes.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein a first protocol is utilized by the client machine to submit the query and the query includes data and metadata along with a request to perform an operation on the data and metadata.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein a first protocol is utilized by the client machine to submit the query and the query includes a pointer to the data and metadata along with a request to perform an operation on the data and metadata.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein the server machine implements a second protocol to process the query.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the processing of the query comprises the server machine performing the requested operation on the data and metadata.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

24. The system of claim 20 wherein the server machine implements a second protocol to process the query.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein the processing of the query comprises the server machine performing the requested operation on the data and metadata.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

27. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for accessing information on a network, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

a) allowing a first system to submit a query to a second system;

b) processing the query with the second system wherein the second system utilizes information not residing on the second system to process the query; and

c) utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system.

28. The computer readable medium of claim 27 wherein the first system comprises a client machine and the second system comprises a server machine.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 28 wherein the information comprises data and metadata.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein the metadata comprises information about objects.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 30 wherein the objects comprise tables, triggers and indexes.

32. The computer readable medium of claim 31 wherein a first protocol is utilized by the client machine to submit the query and the query includes data and metadata along with a request to perform an operation on the data and metadata.

33. The computer readable medium of claim 31 wherein a first protocol is utilized by the client machine to submit the query and the query includes a pointer to the data and metadata along with a request to perform an operation on the data and metadata.

34. The computer readable medium of claim 32 wherein the server machine implements a second protocol to process the query.

35. The computer readable medium of claim 34 wherein the processing of the query comprises the server machine performing the requested operation on the data and metadata.

36. The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein the network comprises the Internet.

37. The computer readable medium of claim 33 wherein the server machine implements a second protocol to process the query.

38. The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein the processing of the query comprises the server machine performing the requested operation on the data and metadata.

39. The computer readable medium of claim 38 wherein the network comprises the Internet.